

Testimony of

Marlene Reel

Pomperaug Educator

Before the

Education Committee

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

The proposed Covid credit is an insult to teachers who showed up every day even though they were in a high risk group because of their age. Only acknowledging young teachers for their service during Covid is a slap in the face to the teachers who are at the end of their careers. If you want to give a bonus to teachers who serve for 20+ years fine but don't insult my commitment during the pandemic years by tying it to Covid. If you want to recruit teachers from other professions, advocate for removing some of the burdens associated such as not being allowed to collect social security for work career before teaching.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

